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The book, as a whole, is of such an order of excellence that all laboratories and reference libraries should have copies. They will undoubtedly stimulate the student and general reader to further observation. We are grateful to the authors for this addition to our resources.

CHARLES H. MORSS.

MEDFORD, MASS.

Civil Government. By J. R. FLICKINGER. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.
Pp. 350. \$1.

THE author designates the book "*Civil Government*, as Developed in the States and in the United States." Part I deals with definitions, origin of government, and development of liberty; Part II, with the colonies; Part III, with the states; and Part IV, with the government of the United States.

The chief features of the book are: (1) a good discussion of the origin of self-government in the small local units; (2) the three forms of local government in this country and their movement from the Atlantic seaboard to the West; (3) the transition of the colonies into states, and the union of the states. The main emphasis is given to local government.

The book is written almost wholly in the past tense. A civil government to be interesting to young people must be written largely in the present tense. The interest centers in what things government can do and how it does them. There is too much tedious repetition in the details of the various states. Striking features common to a considerable number of states should have been classified and grouped. The qualifications for the suffrage as presented for the various states are not brought up to date, as no mention is made of the "intelligence" and "grandfather" clauses in the recent state constitutions of the South.

This book is better adapted for reference purposes than for a text-book.

JEREMIAH S. YOUNG.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
Mankato, Minn.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[The notice here given does not preclude the publishing of a comprehensive review of any of these books.]

A First French Book. By Charles Alfred Downer, College of the City of New York. Size, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 348. Price, \$1.10. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

The author states his aim to be "to lead the learner to conscious knowledge, to develop his faculty of deriving principles for himself." How well he has been able to accomplish this we hope to test in a review.

Athalie Tragédie Tirée de l'Écriture Sainte. Par Jean Racine. Edited by F. C. De Sumichrast. Size, 5×7 . Pp. 194. Price, 60 cents. New York: The Macmillan Co.

The object of this edition of *Athalie* is to present it to teachers and students as a living play, intended for public performance, and not merely for quiet reading in the